It was thus a topsy-turvy country. For example, a man and a woman for some reason might not be able to make a formal marriage, but plainly that was no reason why they should not love. A husband and wife might cease to love each other, and that was obviously the reason why they should separate and marry again. The public pleading of cruelty and [c] misconduct/ with the press advertisement, seemed to them unnecessary. Or there was something obviously peculiar about a man or a woman who had no lover—no qualities to attract the love of *someone.* Children were so lovable that it did not matter whose they were so long as there were children to love. And life was so kind and Nature so generous that private property was futile selfishness and not to laugh and love a sin.

There was even one extraordinary corollary. When the population became too big,

steps had to be taken. In Europe celibacy is imposed on superfluous women; in Tahiti a section of the people were offered catholic love and laughter on condition of their childlessness.

These things seem incredible until you talk